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DR. SAMUEL P. HILDRETH, OF OHIO.

[THE following sketch of the life, thus far, of one of the most distinguished members of the profession in our western country, is interesting, not only on account of its details of an industrious and useful professional career, but also from the fact that it is an autobiography. Dr. Hildreth has furnished for the Historical and Genealogical Register, a valuable publication of this city (from which the following is copied), a series of sketches of the earlier physicians of Marietta, Ohio, the place of his residence. That town, in common with other western towns and cities, has grown up so rapidly, that he himself, though living, may be ranked among that number. Accordingly he has not feared to give, in turn, a history of his own life. We trust that when, hereafter, the sketch shall be finished by another hand, many additional years of usefulness will be included in it, presenting still greater claims for the high respect and esteem now entertained, in all parts of the country, for its subject.]

DR. SAMUEL PRESCOT HILDRETH was the son of Dr. Samuel Hildreth, and born in the town of Methuen, Essex County, Mass., the 30th of Sept., 1783. The old mansion house stands about a mile north of the present manufacturing town of Lawrence, on the river Merrimac. The great ancestor of all of this name in Massachusetts was Richard Hildreth. It is uncertain in what year he emigrated from England, but his name is found amongst a company of twenty men from the towns of Woburn and Concord, who petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts Bay, in the year 1652, "for a tract of land lying on the west side of Concord, or Mus-ke-ta-quid river," where the petitioners say "they do find a very comfortable place to accommodate a company of God's people upon." The petition was granted, and a settlement founded, which proved to be very prosperous. From the date on an old grave-stone standing a few years since in the burying-ground, it is ascertained that he was born in the year 1612. The subject of this brief sketch was of the sixth generation from Richard the progenitor. His early life, until he was 15 years old, was passed on a farm, in the labors of which he actively engaged, thereby acquiring the habit of industry and laying the foundation of a vigorous, healthy frame of body for after life.

The amusements of the youth of that period were all of the athletic kind, such as running, leaping and wrestling, promoting still further the development of the muscular system. When a small boy a taste for reading was imbibed from a social library established in the town at an early day, which remained a durable habit. After receiving as good an education as the schools of the town afforded, he was sent to Phillips's Academy in Andover, then under the care of that veteran teacher Mark Newman, Esq., whose name is yet venerated by hundreds in the United States who received the benefit of his sage instructions. He here commenced the study of Latin. Four seasons being spent at this and the Franklin Academy in the north parish, he was prepared in the languages and other branches for entering college. Instead of completing a college course, he, however, entered on the study of medicine under the instruction of Dr. Thomas Kittredge, of Andover, who stood at the head of his profession in that part of the State as a surgeon, and had constantly a number of pupils under his care. More than a year was devoted to school teaching, chiefly in Andover and Bradford, as was common to the young men of limited means who studied a profession, and was time profitably bestowed in the improvement of their own faculties as well as those of the scholars. After the usual period of study he attended a course of medical lectures at Cambridge University, and received a diploma from the Medical Society of Massachusetts, in February, 1805. In May following he commenced the practice of medicine in Hempstead, N. H., boarding in the family of John True, Esq., whose brother, Dr. Jabez True, was living in Marietta, Ohio. Learning from him that this town afforded a good opening for a young man, he decided on leaving the land of his fathers, and trying his fortune in the "far West," which from boyhood he had desired to see. He left the parental hearth, then in Haverhill, Mass., early in September, 1806, on horseback, and arrived at Marietta the 4th of October following. The State of Ohio was in its third year, and contained about 80,000 inhabitants, amongst which there was no one with whom he was acquainted. It was a land of strangers; but he was young, and his heart buoyant with hope and expectation of good fortune. He soon obtained a share of the practice, the only physicians then being Dr. True and Dr. Hart. Dr. Leonard had recently died, and Dr. McIntosh had abandoned medicine. His rides sometimes extended to thirty miles through the wilderness, the settlements being "few and far between." Belprie, a flourishing town of New Englanders, fourteen miles below on the Ohio, being destitute of a doctor, he was invited by some of the leading inhabitants to come and be their physician. He went there on the 10th of December, the night on which the celebrated Blennerhasset left his fairy island, in sight of his boarding house, to join the utopian expedition of Aaron Burr. In the summer of 1807 an epidemic malarious fever prevailed all along the valley of the Ohio for several hundred miles, where there were any inhabitants, and scarcely a family in Belprie escaped an attack in some form. More than a hundred cases of fever came under his care, which he was so fortunate as to treat in a successful manner, as there were only three deaths in all that number. In Marietta the disease

was much more fatal. Some of the worst cases nearly resembled the yellow fever. In August of that year he married Miss Rhoda Cook, from New Bedford, Mass. Late in the autumn, from over-exertion in riding, he had an attack of inflammation of the hip-joint, which continued for several months, and so greatly incommoded him on horseback that in March, 1808, he moved back to Marietta, where the practice was less laborious. Here he has remained until this time, a period of forty years, constantly engaged in his profession. In the spring of 1808 he wrote a history of the epidemic of the preceding year, which was published in the tenth volume of the *New York Medical Repository*. In 1810 and 1811 he was elected a representative of the State Legislature, and in the latter year drafted a bill for the regulation of the practice of medicine and establishing medical societies, which passed into a law, and remained in force, with various modifications, until the year 1819, when all laws on the subject were repealed. In 1812, a description of the American Colombo, with a drawing of the plant, appeared in the above work, Vol. XV. In 1822 two articles were published in the twenty-second volume of the same *Journal*, from his pen, on hydrophobia, and a curious case of Siamese twins, in his obstetric practice. In 1822 and 1823 the great western epidemic fever prevailed through the valley of the Ohio, visiting Marietta and the adjacent country with great virulence, few persons escaping its attack in a population of two thousand souls. In the summer and autumn of 1822 he visited daily from sixty to eighty patients in town and country; being constantly occupied from sixteen to eighteen hours in every twenty-four. In August, 1823, he was himself attacked with the prevailing fever, but arrested its course in a few days by taking Jesuit's bark in quarter ounce doses, every two hours, alternated with a solution of arsenic. Sulphate of quinine had not then come into use in Ohio, or by it many valuable lives might have been saved. It was, however, a trial of medicine, to which few patients would submit. The year following a full history of this epidemic was written and published in the *Journal of Medical Sciences* at Philadelphia, and in 1825 an article on the minor diseases or sequela of the great epidemic, in the *Western Journal of Medicine* at Cincinnati. In 1826 a series of articles written in 1819, on the natural and civil history of Washington county, were published in *Silliman's Journal of Science*, with a drawing and description of the spalularia, or spoon-bill sturgeon, found in the waters of the Ohio. This was followed in 1827 with descriptions and drawings of several undescribed fresh-water shells found in the Muskingum river and other streams. From 1826 to the present time he has published annually a journal of the weather, amount of rain, flowering of plants, ripening of fruits, &c., in the same periodical, concentrating an amount of facts that may be useful to the future writers on the climate of Ohio. In 1830 an article on the history of the Cicada Septemdecim, or "North American Locust," with drawings of the insect; "The Saliferous rock formation," with a history of the manufacture of salt, from the first settlement of Ohio; "Ten days in Ohio," being a geological description of the region from Marietta to Chillicothe, by way of Zanesville; "The geology and coal formation of the valley

of the Ohio," with numerous plates of fossils, and "The Diary of a Naturalist," on the same subject, all appeared in annual succession, from 1832 to 1836. The materials and facts for these articles were collected during journeys of ten or twelve days over the districts described, and by correspondence with intelligent individuals in tracts of country not personally visited. In 1832 he wrote a history of the floods in the Ohio river since the first settlement of the country, with a particular account of the disasters of the memorable flood of February, 1832, which was published in the first volume of the Transactions of the Historical Society of Ohio. In 1837 he was engaged in examining and reporting on the geology of Ohio, in company with other geologists employed by the State. In 1839 he delivered an address to the Medical Society of Ohio, of which he was then president, at Cleveland, being a history of the diseases and climate of the southeastern portion of Ohio since its first settlement; which was printed by the Society. In 1830 he commenced in earnest the collection of a cabinet of natural history from the fossils, insects, shells and plants of his own State, and by exchanges of these for minerals, insects and marine shells, with naturalists and collectors in the Atlantic cities. In the course of about eight years his cabinet contained more than four thousand specimens in the various departments of natural history, arranged in cases and drawers, labelled, numbered and entered in a catalogue under their respective heads. All this was accomplished while he was busily engaged in the practice of his profession, by saving the "odds and ends of time." Insects were gathered and pinned to the inside of the crown of his hat while riding in the country; and every stream crossed in low water was examined for shells, and the farmers' boys were employed to bring in all they could collect, and instructed how to take and preserve them in the best manner. In the summer of 1832, by the aid of two or three men a few days, he collected more than five thousand shells from the various streams about Marietta, embracing about sixty species. The finest of these were selected, labelled with printed tickets, and put up in neat boxes containing from two hundred to two hundred and fifty specimens, and sent to the eastern cities, where they were exchanged for other articles of natural history and books on the subject, by which course a valuable library was formed without trenching on his other resources. In this way, he in a few years possessed a respectable cabinet in one of the most interesting branches of science. The room devoted to this object and a collection of curious relics from the mounds, being filled up, he in 1840 turned his attention to writing the history of the first settlement of Ohio, collecting the materials from such manuscripts as he could find, and from the lips of the few surviving pioneers. Two volumes of 550 pages each were thus accomplished in 1846, one of history and the other of biographies of the first settlers, who were many of them officers in the Revolutionary War. To these may be added numerous articles of early adventures on the Ohio for the *Western Pioneer*, and a history of the first settlement of Belville, written for the *Hesperian*, both printed at Cincinnati; a journal of the diseases of each month, with a bill of mortality since 1824, and still continued, may be reckoned among the products of his laborious life.

DIFFERENCES OF VITALITY IN HUMAN CONSTITUTIONS.

From DR. EDW. JARVIS'S Address before the Massachusetts Medical Society, May, 1849.

It is, then, a matter of the utmost interest, to know, why mankind suffer these losses of life, and whether they are necessary conditions of their being here.

Much of the difference of vitality is owing to difference of organization—much to development—but much more to self-management. The last is certainly within the control of man himself; the second is within the control of his parents; and the first is more under the control of the world than they are now willing to admit. Why, then, does not man avail himself of these means of life, and create for himself, or his children, the highest health?

There is a general ignorance of the laws of vitality. Men do not understand the connection between their conduct and vital force; and they feel but little responsibility for the maintenance of health. They lay their plans and carry on their operations, without much regard to the conditions of their existence. Life and its interests are not always paramount considerations; but they are made subordinate to matters of inferior importance. They are sacrificed or made to yield to common conveniences and concerns: a man postpones his regular meal, or perhaps goes without it, for want of time to attend to it; or he eats too much, in order to gratify his appetite, or perhaps to please his friends; he exposes himself to inclement weather—cold, storms and heats—in pursuit of pecuniary profit; he fashions and wears his clothing, not according to the necessities of his temperature, but according to the varying taste of the world; he works late at night, or early in the morning, and expends in the day more vital force than the night brings back to him; or, he devotes some of the hours needed for sleep, to pleasure, or to the calls of charity.

In the management of the organs and powers, the question, generally, is not—What does life require, for the development and maintenance of its fullest power? but—What will it bear without extinction? Doubtful questions are determined against life, which must bear the risk of the loss. As an imprudent merchant looks only to the possible chance of escape from bankruptcy, when he considers his expenditures and burdens, and expends or assumes whatever he thinks will not break him, although, to its extent, it is a tax upon his capital; so, unwary men look upon life as a sort of integer, which, whether complete or impaired, seems to be all the same—and in considering burdens and expenditures, they ask—not, whether they will expend life, but—whether life can bear them without utterly failing.

The safety of using *alcoholic* drink is yet an unsettled question. Few suppose that it is ever beneficial to men in complete health: the only question is, whether it is injurious or not. But, notwithstanding there is no doubt that it is not beneficial, and there is a doubt as to its harmlessness, the world is waiting for this last doubt to be removed, and for the positive proof that, in all cases, it produces injury, before they are willing to banish it utterly from use.

Tobacco comes under the same category. It does no good to men in health. Life is neither energized, nor exalted, nor prolonged by it. Its effects are, at best, but negative; and, to some, it is, in a greater or less degree, injurious. Certainly it is reasonable to suppose, that the mixture of so strong a narcotic as tobacco juice with the gastric fluid must change its character, and probably weaken its solvent powers; and the mingling the smoke of tobacco with the pure air must interfere with the chemico-vital processes in the lungs, by which the venous is changed into arterial blood. In either case, the nervous system is unnaturally affected by it; and yet, because this is not demonstrated, the doubt is usually settled in favor of the use of tobacco.

Even more than this, the tobacco-smoker not only continues to experiment on his own vital forces, but he compels others, however unwilling, or however unable they may be, or however much they may suffer by it, to try the experiment on theirs. A man compels his family in his own house, some travellers, boarders in hotels compel the other occupants of the public rooms, and passengers in the streets compel others in their vicinity, to inhale their tobacco smoke. Any one, who desires it, takes this liberty of forcing others to join with him, by vitiating their atmosphere, which, it seems, was given to man in a state of purity, that all might have the privilege of breathing it in the condition that would most effectually serve the purposes of life.

There is a law in this city, prohibiting the smoking of cigars in the streets; but this law is made, not for the security of man, but for the security of buildings. It is intended merely for the prevention of fires, not for the preservation of the purity of the air. It is not even in the chapter relating to public health, but in that which relates to the fire department.

These, and other common and familiar customs, show how little the principles of vitality, or the care for life, weigh upon the anxieties of the world, and how far these are from being paramount considerations in the general plans of action.

The tenor of early education, the influence of public opinion, and the examples of general habits, give men wrong notions of the value, the uses, and the purposes of life and its elements. The world talks much of the sacredness of life, and allows no man to extinguish it in himself or others. Suicide and murder are too shocking to be tolerated. But the foundation on which life is established, the organs and means by which it is sustained, the powers and faculties which are its products, and the labors and enjoyments which are its objects, have no such sacredness attached to them. These may be expended or wasted, and life thereby diminished or even ultimately extinguished—and thus partial murder or partial suicide may be committed—and no law of authority prohibits it, no public opinion is disturbed by it.

A man does not this voluntarily; but he deliberately lays his plans and pursues his course, by which these consequences are inevitably produced. He indulges his appetites and passions beyond their proper limit, he works too laboriously with his hands or his brain, he deprives himself of sleep, he engages in an unhealthful occupation, or establishes himself in an unhealthful climate or miasmatic country, and thus he re-

duces his vital forces, and partially destroys life, or entirely wastes it away.

The common sense of mankind is not shocked by these things ; on the contrary, a willingness to incur the partial loss of life, and run the risk of its entire loss, is esteemed, with some, a sort of virtue ; while the cautious guarding the integrity of life is deemed reproachable.

CASE OF OVARIAN TUMOR CONTAINING TEETH AND HAIR

BY WM. CLAPP, F.R.C.S., HOUSE SURGEON TO THE EXETER HOSPITAL.

ANN TAMLIN, æt. 58, unmarried, was admitted into the Devon and Exeter Hospital, under the care of Dr. Miller, the senior physician, on the 29th of March last, with symptoms of ovarian dropsy. Twenty-eight years since, a swelling commenced in the right iliac region, which continued to increase, so as ultimately to occupy the whole of the abdomen, but very slowly and not affecting her general health, until six weeks before her admission, when a more rapid increase took place, attended with œdema of the feet and ankles, scanty urine, uneasiness at the scrobiculus cordis, and occasional dyspnœa ; this aggravation of the symptoms having been attributed to her getting wet while over-heated. Various remedies having been tried without any beneficial effect, and her respiration being much impeded through the distension of the abdomen and pressure on the diaphragm, the operation of tapping was performed on the 17th, three inches below the umbilicus, by means of a large trocar and canula. After a few ounces of straw-colored serum had escaped, the canula became choked by a thick sebaceous matter ; a considerable quantity of which having been discharged, more serum followed ; so that, after the lapse of half an hour, seven quarts of fluid were drawn off, but with very little reduction of the immense size of the abdomen. Peritonitis supervened upon the operation, and she sank from its effects, and those of exhaustion, forty-eight hours afterwards.

Post-mortem Examination.—On opening the cavity of the abdomen a large quantity of effused fluid escaped ; the peritoneum was found to be intensely inflamed and covered with recent lymph ; and occupying the whole extent of the abdominal cavity was an immense tumor, which, arising from the right ovary by a narrow neck of about two thirds of the size of one's wrist, bulged out to double that size, and, again slightly contracting, immediately increased to the dimensions described, pushing upwards the stomach, liver and diaphragm, and pressing the intestines backwards. It was firmly united by old adhesions on its upper and anterior surface to the omentum, and slightly so, by recently-effused lymph, to the peritoneum lining the abdominal muscles. Its surface was of a dark purple color, except in patches where it was thickened and white through former deposits of lymph : some of these were of considerable size, others smaller ; and numbers of the size of millet-seeds existed on the intestines and other viscera of the abdomen. The tumor, on being removed, proved to be a cyst varying in thickness in parts, but generally about that of a shilling ; its contents consisted of teeth, hair, bony de-

posit, some transparent masses of a cellular structure (as examined by the microscope), serum, sebaceous matter, and granular fat; which were contained in numerous small cysts. Teeth were found in all parts of the tumor, and were counted to the number of forty-three; some were contained in cysts, others imbedded in the semi-transparent masses, and two or three were growing from the walls of the parent cyst. In one part a few were imbedded in a mass of bone, bearing a strong resemblance to an upper jaw ununited in the mesial line.

The teeth consisted of molars, canine and incisors, but in some parts two or three were united together, and one bore no resemblance to a human tooth. The bony deposit existed for the most part in small irregular portions and plates, without any definite form. The teeth and hair were examined by the microscope, and presented the normal appearance, except that the bulbs of the latter were imperfect. The sebaceous matter melted on the application of heat, and partially dissolved in ether. The uterus was of the size of a small pear, and, with the left ovary and its appendages, of healthy appearance.

The preparation is preserved in the museum of the Hospital.—*London Medical Gazette.*

SKETCHES OF EMINENT LIVING PHYSICIANS.—NO. XIII.

GEORGE B. WOOD, M.D., PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA.

"Honors best thrive
When rather from our acts we them derive,
Than our fore-goers: the mere word's a slave
Debauched on every tomb, on every grave;
A lying trophy, and oft as dumb,
Where dust and d—d oblivion is the tomb
Of honor'd bones indeed."—*Shakespeare.*

"Learning, if deep, if useful, and refined,
Communicates its polish to the mind."—*Ovid.*

THE "destiny" of Napoleon and the accompanying "genius" of Socrates were undoubtedly their own clear thoughts and powerful minds. It is well known that Socrates considered himself accompanied by his good genius, whose promptings, if *listened* to, directed him into the paths of truth and rectitude: and Napoleon pretended to be a fatalist—a star presided over his destiny; he was the child of destiny. All this, in the opinion of Cato, is nothing more than the conscious workings of their own active imaginations. Luther was so much occupied with his controversies with sin and the devil, as he supposed, that he conceived his satanical majesty appeared to him in *propria persona*, and using some unfairness in the argument with Luther, the latter, following the example of some other zealous defenders of the faith,

"Proved his doctrine orthodox
By apostolic blows and knocks,"

and sent at the caput of his sooty highness his inkstand and contents; some of the latter of which is still shown to the admiring tourist on the wall of the cell of the great reformer. It is pretty evident that our

greatness comes from within. As moral purity or impurity has its seat in the heart, so intellectual pre-eminence and the accompanying distinction originate in the head. It is very true that a jewel set in brilliants will attract more forcibly the attention of beholders, and be admired more, than one which does not enjoy that advantage. Bacon, and even Newton, felt and acknowledged this, by their efforts to retain what the "greatest, wisest, meanest of mankind" termed "his feathers." Lord Bacon, the Duke of St. Albans, &c. &c., was a very different personage from the author of the "Organon," and the public eye was filled by the spectacle of the learned Judge and noble Duke, when he went about attended by horses and out-riders, or at home feasted both lords and princes in a style at once lordly and princely.

No man, perhaps, would feel more keenly the loss of his feathers, than Dr. G. B. Wood. A youth passed in comparative poverty, a poor Jersey boy, elevated to rank and wealth in a few years, he doubtless feels how much his personal consideration depends upon the trappings of external show. His preceptor, Dr. Parrish, as he very willingly and at all times acknowledges, was his true friend and helper. The Quakers at that time were more united than at present, and a medical man, with even ordinary talents, among them, was sure to succeed. Dr. Parrish had himself risen rapidly, under the fostering care of his "old master, Dr. Wistar," and felt for the quiet, young, and poor Quaker student, a sympathy, which those only who have as large a heart as Dr. P., can feel. It is, however, astonishing how much this sympathy and kindness depends upon the subject being a Quaker—"one of us." But those days have gone by. The division in this sect has introduced family bitterness, for we can look upon their organization and so called principles, only as those of a well-conducted but selfish family.

Having graduated in 1818, in the University, Dr. W. was invited by the ladies of Dr. P.'s family, to deliver lectures (popular) on chemistry, to a class of young persons invited from among neighboring families. In these little efforts, the young doctor exhibited a propriety and precision of manner and matter, which delighted his older patrons and friends, and edified the junior auditors much. From this he was soon transplanted to the chair of chemistry, in the young and humble College of Pharmacy, where the popular feature of his lectures still continued; having distinct tickets for the non-medical public. It seems that the doctor was quite popular with the female portion of his preceptor's family, and enjoyed the advantages of female influence in his favor. Many years had not passed when a young and accomplished woman, only daughter to an indulgent and wealthy parent, presented, *in presento* and *in futuro*, a proper personage to become the partner of so promising a young man. It will be recollected that formerly, and even now among the more orthodox of the Quakers, matrimonial alliances are (very properly) conducted by the senior members of the family, and no dutiful child is expected to thwart the wishes of his parents and friends by refusing an eligible match. Dr. W. was no exception to the rule: a dutiful life heretofore, would lead us to expect obedience in this matter, especially under the circumstances, and the union took place accordingly. Dr. W. has no children.

We turn to Dr. Wood as an author, teacher and practitioner. His first great effort, and one which placed his name and reputation in the hands and mouths of the whole medical profession of our country, was the "United States Dispensatory," which in conjunction with his friend, Dr. Franklin Bache, he edited, in a manner to show a ripe reader and terse writer. His department was that which treated of the vegetable medicines, while Dr. B., in *his* usual accurate style, wrote the chemical or mineral portions of the work. Dr. W.'s removal from the chemical chair to that of *materia medica* and pharmacy in the above college, prepared him for this part of the undertaking. Bringing the work up at once to the advanced condition of the profession, it immediately superseded all others, and edition after edition, at from five to seven dollars per copy, was struck off and sold, greatly to the profit of both editors and publishers. Associated with his venerable preceptor and several fellow students, he continued, from 1830 to 1836, to lecture in a summer association, until he was transferred to the same chair in the University, vacated by Dr. Coxe. The interest of Dr. Parrish was all in his favor in this step, and no doubt exercised considerable influence in obtaining for Dr. W. the appointment. Within a short period of time three important events occurred in the life of Dr. W. The first in the series, was the death of his father-in-law, and the consequent inheritance of a handsome fortune by Dr. W. The second was his appointment of physician to the Pennsylvania Hospital; and the third, which seemed to follow very naturally, was his transfer to the chair of *materia medica* in the University. A splendid mansion arose, as if by magic, with a fine hot-house for plants, native and exotic, and all the usual *et ceteras* of wealth and station.

The next important work which he has issued, is his "Practice of Medicine," which is now running rapidly through a second edition. It is estimated that he will pocket, from this work, the neat sum of \$50,000. His introductions and valedictions are the chief productions, besides the above two works, which have been published of his writings. These are characterized by plainness of style, ingenuity of argument (always written for a purpose), and freedom from *ad captandum* flights of fancy, which, by the by, the Doctor seems not to understand or practice.

But what are we to say about Dr. W.'s writings? Are they brilliant gems of composition, like those of Chapman and Darwin? or are they a plain statement of facts, like those of Bell, Stokes, Thomas and the like? Style, in a man's writings, is of course but the reflection of his genius; and a man naturally writes as he talks or thinks. The school in which Dr. W.'s early training took place, is one that is peculiarly practical; and nothing which is not absolutely necessary to the end in view, is tolerated. Who can imagine any thing plainer than a Quaker? This training, upon a naturally well-balanced mind, has had its usual effect; and Dr. W. does not pretend to great originality. A London reviewer is no doubt correct when he considers Dr. W.'s mind as belonging to the middling class—something like a small, well-tempered Damascus blade: while that of Chapman is an old broad sword, now rusting somewhat in its scabbard. "The Practice of Medicine" doubtless has this advan-

tage—it is American ; and although the affectation for French medicine which is continually infused into our periodical and some of the more permanent literature by the whipsters at the pen, young men who have “seen the world,” has tinged some of the articles in the “Practice,” yet it must be considered both as a modern work, and one that does some justice at least to American writers. This fact makes it popular with American physicians. Tact has been exhibited here, also—for who but our own doctors will probably read the work, except the reviewers and a few of the learned of Europe ?

As a teacher, Prof. W. is clear, emphatic, and to the point—demonstrating his facts with an *air* of precision which makes the student feel that he is getting the pith of the matter. Every thing must, however, be arranged before hand—and we know not what would happen should the lecturer unfortunately leave his notes at home.

Dr. W. seldom wanders into the by-paths of pure literature or science, unconnected with his immediate duties. These do not pay, and are apt to distract the mind from more important (profitable) pursuits. One thing at a time, is the motto of such minds as that of Dr. W. ; unlike Dr. Clarke, who, we all know, carried on numerous studies at one and the same time.

As a practitioner, Dr. Wood is vigorous and decided. Far from being homœopathic, he deals out calomel, opium, the lancet, cathartics, &c., with the vigor of a true believer in the value of drugs. At the same time he walks in the footsteps of his preceptor in the treatment of many of the chronic diseases, and with Hippocrates, “waits.” Where he knows not what to do, he will do nothing—is a strong mercurialist in syphilis, and fights hard for the proper use of this medicine in many other diseases. His wealth has long relieved him from the necessity of practice, but not until he had gone through a short ordeal of the junior practitioner’s labors ; and his professorial duties, with those of the author, now occupy his time, to the exclusion of almost every thing else.

Dr. Wood’s moral character is unblemished with all classes of men—except, perhaps, the temperance men ; these, however, he defies, and says he would give wine at his mis-called Wistar parties, if no one else on earth gave it.

Personally, Dr. W. is tall and thin—perhaps five feet ten or eleven inches. His skin is almost of an olive brown—the face long, and lined up and down with furrows. His chin has the curve of a warrior, and his nose the true Roman shape, that of the eagle’s beak. Hairless eyebrows overhang a clear and lively eye, and a fine black or brown wig covers his head. His long arms and bony fingers correspond with the inferior extremities. He evidently does not make or retain much flesh. His walk is generally perpendicular and stately ; and when accompanied by his friend, Prof. Bache, whose movements are still more precise, one can almost fancy that he sees the United States Dispensatory personified and promenading down the street. The students not unfrequently complain of the marked difference in the treatment received from Prof. W. in the beginning and at the termination of their studies. They say that a first course student gets his whole hand ; a second course, *three* fingers ;

and the candidate is told to sit down without any manual address, except perhaps one, or at most two digits. An examination, they say, is a *dissection*, and the poor culprit winces as if undergoing a surgical operation; now and then, however, one of more spirit than the rest turns upon the operator, and gives him "a piece of his mind."

Dr. W. will probably succeed to the chair of Practice of Medicine in *his* school, and this would be an excellent appointment. As President of the old College of Physicians, Professor in the old school, and the possessor of considerable wealth, with a will to do what his mind decides should be done, he exercises a large influence upon the doctors of Philadelphia.

A short time since, Dr. W. had the gratification, for the first time, to visit England. He has made the best use of his time there, in investigating the condition of his own profession, and reports that he thinks, as a whole, it stands better in this country than there. True, sometimes he met with one who was mayor of a provincial town, &c.; but we know very well, that from Rush to Lin and Edwards, the members of our calling in this country, occupy seats in Congress and elsewhere. He will probably soon visit Europe again, and we may expect his impressions on France, Germany or Italy. Wealth certainly does confer very many advantages on its possessor; not the least of which, is the power of doing what you please. Dr. W., we are told, takes occasionally land tours over the United States—to Saratoga, the Falls, Mississippi, &c. in a carriage and four, with out-riders and extra horses. Sir Astley Cooper's visits to Wales, the native country of his wife's relatives, were generally professional, and the Welsh to this day speak of the great London surgeon and his operations among them. Prof. W., we opine, does not trouble himself much with practice in these pleasure excursions.

Our second quotation at the head of this "Sketch," speaks of the effect of learning upon the mind. Dr. W. is no exception to Ovid's remarks; and is one of the most polished and finished gentlemen in our city. His dress is neat to the extreme, and his address is polished and studiously polite. He can appreciate a joke, and smiles very pleasantly, exhibiting some beautiful (artificial) teeth; but it seems rather out of compliment to the perpetrator of the joke than as the indication of the value of the latter. The strong mark in Prof. W.'s "*personnel*" is his professional and social propriety. The greatest sin that could be committed against Dr. W. would be, especially in any public place, to throw him off his guard in this respect. Education, natural character and habit, no doubt cause this. If our leaders generally would be as circumspect, in this respect, as Dr. W., it would have a good effect upon the rising medical generation.

CATO.

CORNS, BUNIONS, AND CURVED NAILS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

FIRST, *Their Cause.*—The shoe manufacturer is not altogether to blame for these complaints, as sometimes the stocking produces them, and re-

tains them upon the feet for years after. Boots or shoes are generally the primary cause, and *India rubber over shoes* more than all others. They heat the feet more. The direct cause is heat and friction, combined with gentle pressure, which we always experience with a new, or misfitting boot or shoe. Stockings which have large seams in them, which press or imbed themselves into the large joints of the foot, are a fruitful source of corns, bunions, and enlarged joints. The lining of the boot is so situated as sometimes to raise a crop the first day it is worn. It may therefore be concluded that a proper shape, and a nice fit, are necessary to remove the cause, and to insure a permanent relief. A very tight, good fitting shoe or boot, will prove less productive of evil than a large misfitting one. In a word, one can wear a boot or shoe, as tight as they can a glove on the hand, or as the skin is on the foot, if they can find one to fit as well.

The rubber shoe I have attacked, and therefore it is but fair that I give some reasons for so doing. First, to suit the eye it must set close to the boot or shoe, over which it is worn, and it is put on warm, or when flexible; but when it becomes cold, is smaller than it was before, and consequently the foot is brought into a smaller compass, the shoe compressed, which before was comparatively easy, so that uneasiness and actual pain ensue. Every point on the foot suffers—and especially those having corns or callosities. These imbed themselves still deeper into the flesh, till the agony is sometimes almost beyond endurance. This is experienced when riding, walking, sitting in church, or by the fire-side. Relief only comes when the rubber is taken off. Next, an unhealthy condition of the feet follows. Who would have their extremities covered with cataplasms from morning till late in the evening? No well person would consent to it; yet rubbers are worse, for they retain the heat and exhalations, and create vesicles or blisters, without exerting any healthful influence. Sufferings thus produced ultimately impair the general health. Upon some they excite the perspiration to such a degree, that the feet are constantly wet; more so certainly than they would be under ordinary circumstances, even were they not protected at all against external dampness. Now who will say that this continual drain upon the system will not affect the health, producing, as it naturally must (in passing through the sudden changes of heat and cold connected with every-day life), colds, coughs and consumption.

The same causes that irritate old corns, will produce new ones; and if continued, increase the magnitude of the old ones by forming sacs at the bottom, which are often found, when corns are extracted, resembling the pulpy nerve of a diseased tooth—a sac filled with fluid. Boots or shoes too short, too narrow or too thin through the toes, will produce all the trouble that is discoverable with nails that grow into the flesh, become clubbed, thick or bloodshot. Yet these sometimes come by accident.

With respect, however, to rubber shoes, it is not their use, but their abuse which should be discountenanced. They are useful when put on cold, and worn in the wet and cold; but should not be kept on while sitting in a warm apartment. Some persons wear them in warm shops

to work in, because they are soft and easy to the feet ; but such people ascertain, sooner or later, that their feet are tender, sore and painful ; and they are more susceptible to colds.

I may differ from some of the profession in my definition of corns ; but what I pretend to know about them, did not come from books, but from actual experience, from handling and dissecting them every day for years. The public has been misled by London Jews and German quacks, and many other itinerant pretenders, who have visited our more populous towns, being well supplied with points of bristles, and the like, which they have shown, and pretended to take from the foot, rendering their operation more satisfactory at the time, and causing the patient to part with his money more readily. So far as my observation extends, there is not one corn in one hundred that will compare with their showing. Corns vary in their shape and size, as much as the pebbles upon the sea-shore ; neither are they composed of the same material, in all cases. First we find one composed of serum, next pure blood, then matter coagulated, and lastly lymph. All corns are enclosed in a sac, or bag, which proves them to have been, at some period, blisters just under the cuticle, filled with serum ; or perhaps they were blood-blisters made in the skin, or they commenced as deep ulcers. The matter, not discharged in the latter case in healing, becomes coagulated by the heat of the foot. Most of these kinds of accumulations become a very hard substance, and usually take a conical form. This depends much, however, on surrounding circumstances, and the degree of pressure, which combine to irritate and inflame the part. A small sac at the bottom of the old corn, which, in its turn, coagulates, and adds to the former difficulty, constitutes a striking variety. Common callosities, existing, as they are sometimes permitted to, on the joint, are very liable to cause all the evils before mentioned, and in addition, the large joints and instep to inflame, and displace the small bones. Some corns are so sharp-pointed, that from constant pressure they are driven deeply into the cap of the joints, and the writer often finds those that have completely severed some of the minor bloodvessels. In either of the three last locations, they prove sorry accompaniments. They are more difficult to operate upon, and need a longer course of treatment, but may be cured without pain or the appearance of blood.

Bunions are a multiplied and complicated mass of the same materials, often embracing all the varieties in a single lump ; they may be removed by the same treatment resorted to in the others, and now familiarly known, as the operation has become a distinct branch of business in the hands of chiropodists.

The old and vulgar idea that corns grow from the bone, to the surface, still has its advocates. As they grow from the surface, into the foot, I find no difficulty in removing them entirely from their irritating position.

Now if there are any unbelievers among physicians, in respect to the modern improved method of extracting corns, I respectfully invite them to witness my process. It is useless to attempt a description of the operation, as it must be seen to be understood.

CHAS. MERRIFIELD.

154 Washington st., Boston, Oct. 10, 1849.

NASAL HEMORRHAGE.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THERE are few physicians who have not occasionally been annoyed by the difficulty with which nasal hemorrhage is arrested. An old ship-master communicated to me a method, which shows that the artery furnishing the supply of blood can be perfectly compressed at the root of the upper incisor teeth. His process was to roll up a piece of paper and place it under the upper lip. The first opportunity I had of trying it, was a case of profuse hemorrhage from a fall, which had persisted four days, notwithstanding repeated plugging of the nostrils, and the patient had become almost exsanguine. In this case the front teeth of the patient were wanting, and I applied the pressure by tying a knot in a bandage, which I placed on the upper lip so as to make pressure immediately at the root of the septum narium, and tied the bandage around the head above the ears. The hemorrhage was immediately and permanently arrested. On mentioning the subject to several of my medical friends, I found the practice was new to them all, and I therefore commend it for the benefit of the profession.

SAMUEL R. SMITH.

Tompkinsville, Staten Island, N. Y., Oct. 15, 1849.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON. OCTOBER 24, 1849.

Geological Developments in Vermont.—A rail-road cutting in Vermont, between Vergennes and Middlebury, recently brought to light the skeleton of a cetaceous animal, bearing some resemblance to the dolphin. Mr. Thompson, a naturalist, who was on the spot, says that it was about eleven feet long and six in circumference. Further, it is his opinion that it bears no relation to any existing species. Not long since, the remains of an elephant were found in the same neighborhood, which were exhibited at the late scientific congress in Cambridge. Subsequently, the remains of an ape, says an exchange publication, were exhumed; and, lastly, there has been dug up this monster of an ancient ocean whose billows rolled and surged above the mighty granite peaks of the Green Mountains, ages upon ages before the creation of man. All these show that geological revolutions have taken place on this section of the globe, transcending even the wildest vagaries of the imagination.

Who would not be a naturalist, to enjoy the contemplation of these and innumerable other fragments of animals that lived at an epoch so remote, that the most learned in pantæological researches dare not attempt to define it? They are parts of nature's subterranean library, in which the geologist reads the history of the past, which justly leads him to infer that phases no less striking than those which this habitable globe has passed through to become the home of countless races of organized beings, will again take place. Matter cannot remain at rest; and this fair world, with all its extraordinary accompaniments, must ultimately fall into ruin,

and then again burst into new forms of beauty and wonderful adaptation to the then condition of things. Such have been the changes through which it has passed—and they may be repeated at intervals, too vast for finite comprehension, through the never-terminating cycles of eternity.

Death of Dr. Gallup.—Joseph Gallup, M.D., formerly President of the Medical Society of Vermont, and also Professor of the Theory and Practice in the Castleton Medical College, died last week at Woodstock, Vt., the place of his residence, at the advanced age of nearly 81. Dr. G. was an author, and although not very popular as a writer, was a man of strong intellectual powers, if not precisely an originator of new ideas. His literary reputation was based, in a measure, upon a history of the spotted fever, an epidemic that raged terrifically in Vermont some thirty years ago. His *Institutes of Medicine*, in two large octavos, on which he evidently exerted his utmost scientific and intellectual power, never took the bibliographical position that he most sanguinely hoped for it—and without any assignable cause, a laborious effort, the crowning glory of a long professional life, has strangely been neglected. In speaking of the work at its first appearance, the idea was advanced by us, that it would be consulted a century hence with more respect than at the moment of its typographical birth. Dr. Gallup was a man of learning—a laborious and careful student, and an ambitious practitioner when in the meridian of life. A memoir of him is solicited from some one sufficiently familiar with his history to do justice to his memory.

Apothecary Shops.—On a former occasion, a commendatory notice was taken of several drug and medicine establishments in different sections of the city, which add exceedingly to the interest of the streets in which they are located. The good taste, elegance and system discoverable in them, are weighty evidences of the scientific qualifications and experience of those who own them. With equal satisfaction, we would now direct the attention of purchasers of drugs, chemicals, instruments, &c., to Mr. Little's very spacious and well-ordered store, at the corner of Hanover and Salem streets. It is a subject of wonder, when examined in detail from garret to cellar. First, there is an appropriate apartment for every branch of his extensive business, with a man in it who perfectly understands the duties and responsibilities of the place. Then there is a thoroughly-educated practical chemist in one room—a salesman in another, and a book-keeper advantageously located somewhere else. The personal respect entertained in the city for the proprietor and those associated with him, should assist in commanding for them, as we cannot doubt it does, the esteem and confidence of gentlemen in the country.

Several admirably-conducted retail apothecary shops have also sprung up at points of the town where they were most needed, distinguished alike for the purity of the articles on the shelves, and the accuracy and caution with which recipes are put up in family practice. Among these is Mr. Edw. H. Weston's, Charles street; Almy's, corner of Howard and Court streets; Thayer's, at the Revere House, besides others, perhaps equally deserving of commendation and patronage, whose names are not at this moment recollected.

Diseases of Infancy and Childhood.—After a long period of apparent repose, Messrs. Lea & Blanchard, the firmly-established Philadelphia house, have given intimations of returning activity, and thus early made a leap from the remnant framework of the waning old year, into the new, having re-printed, from a London copy, "Lectures on the Diseases of Infancy and Childhood, by Charles West, M.D., &c." which bears the imprint of 1850. This is anticipating time. However, medical readers will gladly avail themselves of it, be the date what it may. No literary jobbers, or posters-up for hire, have either defaced or defiled it; and for a wonder, Dr. West has fairly been born, in a bibliographical sense, without the assistance of a professed accoucheur in the shape of a note-manufacturer, now a distinct trade. By way of explaining who Dr. West is, and the place his opinions and views should occupy, suffice it to say, that in the summer of 1847 he addressed the pupils of the Middlesex Hospital, and this treatise embraces a large part of his observations at that time on the diseases of children. Nearly 14,000 children, the patients of an infirmary, were brought under his particular notice in the period of about nine years. Dr. West actually kept notes of 600 cases, and recorded specifically the results of 180 dissections. It is fair to conclude, from this chart of personal labor, that an honest, instructive registration of symptoms and appearances, in different diseases, is to be found in this promising volume. There are 39 lectures, which, after a learned introductory discourse, take up the consideration, first, of the diseases of the brain and nervous system. Without specifying the exact contents of these lectures, or of those which follow, in an orderly series, it seems only necessary to state our individual conviction of the merits of the undertaking, and a hope is entertained that others may find it as instructive and praiseworthy as ourselves. Copies are to be had at Ticknor & Co.'s, Washington st.

Decennial Revision of the Pharmacopœia.—Such is the importance attached to the revision of the Pharmacopœia in May next, that those bodies entitled to the privilege of sending delegates, should on no account neglect making seasonable and suitable appointments. The faculty of Geneva Medical College have elected Prof. J. Bryan, of Philadelphia, to represent that institution. A better selection could not have been made. The meeting, it will be recollected, is to be held in the city of Washington.

Restrictions in the Sale of Poisons.—This subject has often been alluded to in the Journal, and the importance urged of more stringent measures than are now adopted to prevent accidents and murders by means of poisonous drugs. A writer in the London Medical Gazette suggests the following plan in regard to the sale of arsenic.

"It must be admitted on all sides that it is necessary some restriction should be placed on the sale of arsenic.

"I have for some time past kept a register of my sale of arsenic, and I require the signature of the buyer or of a witness before I sell it to any one; this must act as a most salutary (perhaps efficient) check on its felonious administration, for few, after having signed to the fact of having purchased it, would dare to make use of it.

"A still more efficient, and not at all vexatious restriction would be this:—

"That the law should make it imperative on all sellers of arsenic to keep such a register, and every month to send a copy of it to the coroner of the district where the purchaser lives, to be filed by him.

"That no mark '+' should be allowed instead of a signature; for persons who cannot write should not be trusted with it.

"That the seller should have sufficient knowledge of the buyer to know that it is the real name of the buyer.

"Uniform printed forms of register to be used at the seller's expense.

"None to be allowed to sell it except chemists taking out a patent medicine license.

"The regulations to be enforced by fines, &c.

"If the trouble is increased, the trade must increase the price."

Soul and Instinct.—A discourse, in which soul and instinct are physiologically distinguished from materialism—a volume of 230 pages, by Martyn Paine, M.D., &c., of New York—has been lying on the table several days. We have been waiting an opportunity to examine it, and had hoped in the meantime to ascertain what others say about it; but not a line has yet come to hand, from philosophers, metaphysicians or divines. We have always maintained that Dr. P. was a man of vast acquirements—a model intellectual worker, and he is not to blame if all the world don't like his works. We shall continue to vindicate his claims to profound attainments in medical philosophy, even should he wish us prosecuted for a libel because a correspondent of the Journal happens to criticize a literary production.

Creosote in the Treatment of Diarrhœa.—Dr. Spinks gives, in the London Medical Gazette, the following statements respecting his use of creosote in diarrhœa and cholera :—

"From the 1st of July to the 1st of August, I have had 224 cases of simple diarrhœa, 12 cases of rice-water purging, and 18 case of cholera. The first 93 cases of diarrhœa were treated with the usual chalk mixture and opium, the remainder with creosote; in those treated with the former the diarrhœa continued for some days, and, when checked, was invariably followed by a disagreeable rumbling and flatus in the bowels. In the 131 cases treated with creosote, the diarrhœa *immediately* ceased, and was followed by none of the above symptoms. In the 12 cases of rice-water purging, the effect was instantaneous, the first dose generally putting a stop to the discharge. In the 18 cases of cholera, all of whom had vomiting, rice-water purging, cramps and blue skin, creosote had the same decided effect, at once checking the purging and vomiting, the cramps very soon afterwards subsiding, the pulse becoming full and soft, a free perspiration breaking out over the body and extremities.

Of the 18 cases of cholera treated with creosote, I have only lost *two*, these being far gone in collapse when I was called to them. The formula in which I use the creosote, is—R. Creosote, m.xxiv.; mist. acaciæ, 3ss.; sp. ammon., c. camphora, aa 3ij.; ether. chlorici, 3iij.; aquæ, 3viss. M. Ft. misturæ. Capiat cochl. ij. mag. omni horâ.

In simple diarrhœa I only give two drops every two hours, with the above stimulants, and no astringent whatever.

The Covering of Pills.—M. Durden proposes, in the *Journal de Pharmacie et de Chimie*, to render pills tasteless by covering them either with collodion or gutta percha. The pills are to be fixed upon pins, and twice dipped in a solution of gun-cotton. When gutta is preferred, this substance is to be dissolved either in chloroform or sulphuret of carbon, and the same process followed. The author, however, gives the preference to collodion. Gelatine, mixed with jujube paste, as now used in France, for the same purpose, seems far less objectionable than the substances recommended.—*London Lancet*.

Influence of Medicine in lowering Mortality.—Sceptical people will often express a doubt whether medicine has contributed to lower the mortality in places abundantly supplied with medical men. Such doubts will be at once allayed by a glance at the tables of the mortality in the Prussian States, which have just been published. They show that in all those districts where medical men are very few, the deaths are much more numerous, and brought about by causes of a more uncertain character, than in the localities which have the assistance of a proper number of medical practitioners.—*L'Union Médicale*.

Medical Miscellany.—Mr. Lacoupey states that, as yet, therapeutics do not teach how to arrest the progress of pulmonary *tubercularization*; he thinks that he has supplied the desideratum. He has administered, in a multitude of cases, the pharmaceutical preparation *pommade mercurielle* (mercurial ointment), in pills, a dose from five to forty centigrammes daily, half in the morning, half in the evening. Under this treatment the morbid phenomena soon lessened, and then ceased altogether.—A catalogue of the students at the new medical institution, Rock Island, Upper Mississippi, with the announcement of the prospects of the next lecture season, exhibits the enterprise of the far West. Twenty were admitted to the degree of M.D., and two honorary degrees were conferred.—A lady in Boston, last week, gave birth to three children.—How is it that Berlin, of all the great cities of Europe, has always escaped the cholera? asks an inquirer. It is not so, Berlin was suffering exceedingly at the last dates from epidemic cholera.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A case of modified development in utero, and a paper on marriage in a medical view, are on file for early insertion.

MARRIED.—In Sandwich, Mass., Dr. M. B. Leonard, of East Boston, to Miss Emeline Pierce.—In Boston, Dr. Wm. L. Richardson to Mrs. S. R. Hurlburt.

DIED.—At Wilkesbarre, Penn., Dr. Ralph A. Snow, formerly of New York, 37.—At Woodstock, Vt., Joseph Gallup, M.D., in his 31st year.

Report of Deaths in Boston—for the week ending Saturday, October 20th, 53—Males, 25—females, 28. Accidental, 4—apoplexy, 1—disease of the bowels, 3—inflammation of the bowels, 1—consumption, 4—convulsions, 1—cholera infantum, 1—canker, 3—croup, 1—dysentery, 2—diarrhea, 3—dropsy, 1—dropsy of the brain, 2—drowned, 2—diabetes, 1—typhus fever, 3—lung fever, 2—typhoid fever, 1—hooping cough, 1—infantile diseases, 6—inflammation of the lungs, 1—marasmus, 1—disease of the kidneys, 1—disease of the liver, 1—old age, 1—paralysis, 2—teething, 2.

Under 5 years, 24—between 5 and 20 years, 4—between 20 and 40 years, 16—between 40 and 60 years, 3—over 60 years, 6. Americans, 25; foreigners and children of foreigners, 28.

Abscess in the Brain.—From a New York paper, the following relation of a bold and almost unparalleled operation is copied. Perhaps, when a report of the case reaches us through the official channel of some Medical Journal, it may be shorn of a portion of the marvellousness that now accompanies the popular representation. In the mean while, if any New York correspondent would forward a statement, technically expressed, so that medical readers could precisely understand the true character of the injury, its exact locality, and the names of the bones, &c., involved in the fracture, many of the profession would be gratified. Such cases should be published in Medical Journals. No one credited the first newspaper account of the accident at Cavendish, Vt., by which an iron bolt, three feet long, and nearly an inch in diameter, was shot through the head of a man without killing him. A complete history of the extraordinary fact, together with a subsequent account of the treatment and recovery of the patient, appeared in this Journal, from the pen of the attendant surgeon, and convinced all of the remarkable nature of the accident. The following is the case first alluded to.

"Dr. Detmold stated that the man had, about eight weeks ago, received an injury of the head. The family physician had immediately removed some loose pieces of the skull, and the patient was apparently recovering. About four weeks after, he showed, however, symptoms of pressure on the brain, and he (Dr. Detmold) was called in, and removed another piece of fractured bone, and with it all the symptoms of pressure. The wound healed, and the patient went about until the day before, when the symptoms of pressure on the brain came on again, and increased so rapidly that the patient was now utterly unconscious, and apparently dying. There was on the left side of the *os frontis* a deep adhering scar, in the neighborhood of which the doctor commenced his operations. He made several incisions in different directions, and boldly, but with great care, removed several large pieces of bone, altogether about five or six square inches of skull, laying the *dura mater* bare to a corresponding extent. But alas! it produced no effect upon the patient—the pressure on the brain was not relieved in the least. The *dura mater* was then opened; but underneath nothing was discovered, and the patient remained insensible. Dr. Detmold now paused a moment to hold a short council with the medical men present, whether to penetrate into the brain or not. Some were for not going any farther, while others thought an exploring puncture might as well be made, as the patient would die at any rate. After attentively listening to the different opinions, Dr. D. calmly said, "I shall follow my own idea," or something to that purpose; and he deliberately made a bold incision into the substance of the brain, about one inch long, and one-third of an inch deep, and out gushed a thick stream of matter. The fifth day after the operation, the man was not only comfortable and doing well, but there was hardly a doubt left about his ultimate recovery."

Detection of Chloroform in the Blood.—This is effected by the conversion of chloroform, at a red heat, into chlorine and hydrochloric acid. Place the blood in a sandbath, pass the resulting vapor through a tube heated in the centre to a red heat, and lined at its extremity with a paste of iodide of potassium and starch, its open end also being covered with paper moistened with the same mixture. If chloroform be present the paper will be tinged blue. By this means one part in ten thousand may be detected.—*Journal de Chimie Médicale*, Mars, 1849.